

REMARKS

The Official Action, dated November 1, 2007, has rejected claims 1-5 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over WEBER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,564,005) in view of MITCHELL et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,732). The cited portions of the applied documents discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action do not correspond to MITCHELL et al., but appear instead to refer to another document. Applicants cannot determine whether the rejection is based upon WEBER et al. in view of MITCHELL et al.; WEBER et al. in view of MITCHELL et al. and further in view of another document; or WEBER et al. in view of another document.

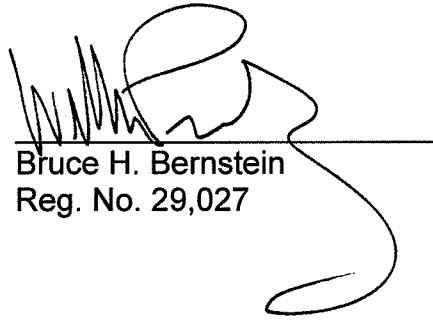
On January 18, 2008, Applicants' attorney, Richard J. McGrath, telephoned the Examiner who issued the Official Action and requested clarification. The Examiner acknowledged an inconsistency in the rejection, and indicated that a new Official Action should be issued. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a substitute Official Action and that the time to reply be reset or restarted in accordance with MPEP § 710.06.

If any extension of time is deemed to be necessary to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time fees for entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby requested and authorization is hereby provided to charge any necessary fees to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

P24306.A11

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Reply or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Javier B. ARELLANO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'B' and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33630

February 1, 2008
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